GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1392
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
FOODGRAINS PROCESSED BY COTTAGE INDUSTRIES
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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains processed in cottage industries in the country during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to train the entrepreneurs engaged in the cottage industry sector and to modernise the enterprises functioning in this sector?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) The Government, in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has been implementing a credit linked subsidy Scheme called Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for assisting the entrepreneurs in setting up of village industry units, including cottage industries engaged in processing of food grains, in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000. However, data relating to quantity of food grains processed in cottage industries in the country are not maintained centrally.

(b) KVIC organizes various training programmes like managerial courses, artisan courses, skill development courses, specialized courses for prospective entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship development programmes, entrepreneurship awareness programmes etc., to provide training to entrepreneurs through its Departmental and non-Departmental Training Centres, spread throughout the country.

Besides REGP, the following schemes/programmes are implemented by the KVIC for promotion/modernisation of the village industries, including cottage industries.

(i) Rural Industries Service Centres (RISC) Scheme for setting up common facility centres to provide infrastructural support and services to such industries.

(ii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Programme for improving the design and packaging of village industry products.

(iii) Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for the development of around 100 traditional clusters in khadi, village industries and coir sectors which envisages need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc.

(iv) Rural Industries Consultancy Service Cells (RICS) to provide guidance to the entrepreneurs in preparing bankable projects.

(v) Assistance to village industry units to participate in exhibitions at the international, national and sub-national levels for improving marketing of the products.